

### **REMARKS**

In the March 26, 2007 Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 13 stand rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

#### ***Status of Claims and Amendments***

In response to the March 26, 2007 Office Action, Applicants have amended claim 1 as indicated above. Thus, claims 1, 4 and 13 are pending, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

#### ***Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,202,281 (Ishibashi). In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to clearly define the present invention over the prior art of record.

In particular, independent claim 1 recites that the thin portion is configured and arranged to bridge both sides of the recessed portion and strengthen the semiconductor substrate with respect to forces applied from both sides of the semiconductor substrate. This structure is **not** disclosed or suggested by Ishibashi or any other prior art of record. It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claim within the reference.

Ishibashi discloses a silicon single crystal wafer 4 with a cantilever 1. The cantilever 1 is spaced from the wafer 4 by a broken portion 16. A recessed portion is below the cantilever 1. Thus, the cantilever 1 is **not** configured and arranged to bridge both sides of the recessed portion **and strengthen** the semiconductor substrate with respect to forces applied from both sides of the semiconductor substrate. The cantilever 1 does not bridge both sides

of the recessed portion because of the broken portion 16. Furthermore, the broken portion 16 *weakens* the wafer 4 with respect to forces applied from both sides of the wafer 4.

Independent claim 1 further requires at least one through hole formed in the thin portion. Applicants respectfully assert that the wafer 4 of Ishibashi does not have a thin portion configured and arranged to bridge both sides of the recessed portion and strengthen the semiconductor substrate with respect to forces applied from both sides of the semiconductor substrate and yet additionally has at least one through hole.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as now amended, is not anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicants believe that dependent claim 13 is also allowable over the prior art of record in that it depends from independent claim 1, and therefore is allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, dependent claim 13 is further allowable because it includes additional limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art of record does not anticipate independent claim 1, neither does the prior art anticipate dependent claim 13.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

***Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102/103***

On page 3 of the Office Action, claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Ishibashi.

Applicants believe that dependent 4 is also allowable over the prior art of record in that it depends from independent claim 1, and therefore is allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, dependent claim 4 is further allowable because it includes additional limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the invention as set forth in independent claim 1, the prior art of record also fails to disclose or suggest the inventions as set forth in the dependent claim 4.

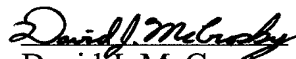
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Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn in view of the above comments and amendments.

***Conclusion***

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 4 and 13 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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